GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3772
ANSWERED ON:22.12.2015
Adulteration in Jewellery
Galla Shri Jayadev

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is true that as per the World Gold Council study, only 30% of Indian jewellery is pure and even the purity of Hallmarked jewellery varies from place to place;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor along with the reaction of the Government thereto;

(c) whether suggestions/ recommendations have been received from some experts to set up a network of Hallmarking centres across the country to ensure purity of jewellery; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the response of the Government thereto?

Answer

THE MINISTER FOR
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
(SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN)

(a) & (b) : Madam, as per World Gold Council report, about 30% of the jewellery is hallmarked in the country. In this report, it is mentioned that there are concerns about the quality and credibility of some hallmarking centres. Presently, the Hallmarking Scheme is voluntary in nature.

Out of the 1242 test reports received from the samples drawn during 2014-15 by BIS, 871 samples were found of equal to or higher purity than the declared purity. 371 samples were found of marginally lower purity with 0.33% average shortage of purity.

Relevant provisions have been made in the Hallmarking Scheme for imposition of penalty on the Assaying and Hallmarking Centre, if the fineness in a hallmarked jewellery/article upon testing by BIS is found to be lower than the marked fineness.

During 2015-16 till 25th November, 2015, penalty of Rs. 4.69 lakh has been imposed on the Assaying and Hallmarking Centres and 11 centres have also been derecognized.

(c) & (d) : No specific suggestions/recommendations have been received from experts regarding setting up of a network of Hallmarking Centres across the country. However, the setting up of an Assaying & Hallmarking Centre is a market driven activity depending on the commercial viability as assessed by the entrepreneur.
*****